

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) # MT-0010-2013-002-EA
Fee Coal Exploration
Hope Exploration Area

This unsigned FONSI and the attached EA #MT-0010-2013-002-EA for fee coal exploration in the Hope Exploration Area (fee surface and mineral ownership within exterior boundary of Crow Indian Reservation) are available for public review and comment for 19 days beginning on February 1, 2013 and ending on February 19, 2013.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the attached EA and consideration of the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that with required and proposed mitigating measures the fee coal exploration would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

The decision to approve or deny the fee coal exploration plan, and if appropriate, a signed FONSI with rationale, will be released after consideration of public comments and completion of the EA.